PATENT

Atty. Docket No. EPC-002

(2115/4)

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APPLICANT:

Kobata

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EXAMINER: Titcomb, W.

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to: Examiner Titcomb, Box AF, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, Facsimile No. (703) 305-7201 on this 2154 day of May, 1999.

Kerri Guglietta

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This paper is a Preliminary Amendment for the application identified above responsive to the Office Action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 5, 1999, and the interview with Examiners Meky and Titcomb on April 29, 1999, and accompanies a Continuing Prosecution Application Request. Before beginning examination of the application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 10, 20, 23 without prejudice.